WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A17

1.   A method for gathering information relevant to the creation of a family tree, organizing the information, and displaying it in the form of a family tree, comprising the steps of:

searching multiple databases through a network and scanning the database for relevant information,

reviewing said information according to a set of algorithms for relationships to other individuals entered into the local database and assessing the probability that the newly identified individual is related to the original individual,

providing said information, along with the probability assessment to the user for acceptance or rejection; and

and updating the database upon acceptance of the user.

2.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said network is the internet.

3.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said algorithms are contained in software that is loaded onto a personal computer.

4.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said algorithms are contained in software that is loaded onto Kiosk.

5.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said algorithms are contained in software that is contained on a third party server and is accessed by the user via a connection to a network.

6.   A method according to claim 4 wherein said network is the Internet.

7.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the data is rendered into a family tree format and printed on a printer connected to a personal computer.

8.   A method according to claim 7 wherein the printing is done on a Kiosk.

9.   A method according to claim 7 wherein the printing is done by a third party service provider.

10.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the data is stored on a Compact Disk.

11.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the data is input at a third party location, such as a funeral home.

12.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the data is partitioned into sections.

13.   A method according to claim 12 wherein different levels of accessibility are provided for each section.

14.   A method according to claim 1 wherein the individuals are related not through family relationships but due to other experiences.

15.   A method according to claim 14 wherein said experience is a secondary school or university class.

16.   A method according to claim 14 wherein said experience is related to military service.

17.   A method according to claim 1 wherein said data may comprise any one of the following: text, image, or sound.

18. A method according to claim 1 wherein other individuals may add or edit information contained in the database.

19. A method according to claim 18 wherein the user has the option to approve or not approve said additions or edits.

20. A method for gathering information relevant to the creation of a family tree, organizing the information, and displaying it in the form of a family tree, comprising the steps of:

searching multiple databases through a network and scanning the database for relevant information;

reviewing said information according to a set of algorithms for relationships to other individuals entered into the local database and assessing the probability that the newly identified individual is related to the original individual;

providing said information, along with the probability assessment to the user for acceptance or rejection; and

updating the database upon acceptance of the user.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the data comprising the family tree is contained in a web page hosted on a server connected to a network.

22. A method according to claim 21 wherein said network is the Internet.

23. A method according to claim 21 wherein said web page includes a template for setting forth the manner and structure of the web page/site.

24. A method according to claim 21 wherein said web page is hosted by a business establishment having a plurality of such web pages.

25.   A method according to claim 20 wherein said electronic data base is accessed by a Kiosk.

26.   A method according to claim 20 wherein said electronic data base is accessed by personal computer at a location remote from said electronic data base.

27.   A method for automatically compiling a family tree, comprising the steps of:

obtaining specified data about a first individual;

obtaining said specified data about a second individual;

automatically comparing the said specified data for said first and second individuals so as to determine if there exists matching data for establishing a family connection; and

establishing a link when said family connection is found to exist between said first and second individual.

28.   A method according to claim 27 wherein said specified data is obtained at or near the time of death of said first or second individual.

29.   A method according to claim 27 further comprising a notice which is sent to said individual with respect to advising of said family connection.

30.   A method according to claim 27 further comprising the step of printing a family tree based on said established family connection.

31.   A method according to claim 27 of printing an album with image and text of said family tree.

32.   A software product for automatically compiling a family tree such that when loaded onto a computer it would cause the computer to do the following steps of:

obtaining specified data about a first individual;

obtaining said specified data about a second individual;

automatically comparing the said specified data for said first and second individuals so as to determine if there exists matching data for establishing a family connection; and

establishing a link when said family connection is found to exist between said first and second individual.

33. A computer software product for gathering information relevant to the creation of a family tree such that when loaded onto a computer will cause the computer to go through the steps of:

searching multiple databases through a network and scanning the database for relevant information;

reviewing said information according to a set of algorithms for relationships to other individuals entered into the local database and assessing the probability that the newly identified individual is related to the original individual;

providing said information, along with the probability assessment to the user for acceptance or rejection; and

updating the database upon acceptance of the user.